

hoNAPAKTE.

had succeeded Joseph at Naples, and this accession of his brother-in-law of Napoleon to one of the* thrones of the House of Bourbon gave Bonaparte another junior in the college of kings, of which he would have infallibly become the senior if he had gone off as he began.

I will relate a little circumstance which now occurs to me respecting the kings manufactured by Napoleon. I recollect that during the King of Etruria's stay in Paris the First Consul went with that Prince to the Comedie Franchise, where Voltaire's (*Edijus* was performed. This piece, I may observe, Bonaparte liked better than anything Voltaire ever wrote. I was in the theatre, but not in the First Consul's box, and I observed, as all present must have done, the eagerness with which the audience applied to Napoleon and the King of Etruria the line in which Philootetes says —

*' J'ai fait des souverains et n'ai pas voulu l'être. " 1

The application was so marked that it could not fail to become the subject of conversation between the First Consul and me. " You remarked it, Bourneum* ? " . . . " Yes, General. " . . . " The fools! . . . They shall see! They shall see ! " We did indeed see. Not content with making kings, Bonaparte, when his brow was encircled by a double crown, after creating princes at length realized the object he had long contemplated, namely, to found a new nobility, endowed with hereditary rights. It was at the coronation of March, 1808, that he accomplished this project; and I saw in the *Mnnittwr* a long list of princes, dukes, counts., barons, and knights of the Empire; there were wanting only viscounts and marquises.²

¹ *"* I have* made, sovrapiuns, but have not wished to be, one myself."*

For a list of the chief titles granted by Napoleon see *Mtullunn* Jinwt*, London, Hcncly, 1KH.\ vol iii. p. 51~. The- barons and counts were legion. It will be seen that all the territorial titles, if the* phrase can be used hi thi: case, were placed in foreign countries. This was one of the characteristic pr<*cautions taken by Napoleon in creating a fresh nobility. The passions of the Revolutionary party would have been violently excited by a creation of French titles,—a measure which would also have displeased the old nobility. But when titles sue.h as Due. dc Cast f glume, were given, it was difficult for any Frenchman to object, to a dignity which recalled a French tri»umph and French asse.udrucy. Th<*ir inconvenience was afterwards shown in th<* <»ase of Marmont, whom the (Tour! of Vicuna refused

t*> receive after
the fail of Napoleon unless his titlo of Magusa was dropped.